

Education is life

Subject: Education is life

From: Mitch O'Farrell <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>

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To: lisa@mediadistrict.org

 [Mitch O'Farrell, Councilmember, 13th District](#)

Friend --

As we renew our journey of discovery and expanding the mind, I would like to extend my best wishes for a successful school year. American philosopher John Dewey once said "Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself," and this month young Angelenos will continue the process of growth and learning.

During this past year I served on the Health, Mental Health, and Education Committee and I was so incredibly proud of the work my office accomplished with the help of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Here are just some of the ways we are improving quality of life for every Angeleno:

-I worked with several schools and parents, as well as our City departments, on creating even safer routes to school by adding traffic signals and improved crosswalk visibility. This includes two improvements: a new signalized crosswalk at Larchmont Charter School (Vine Street and Waring Avenue in Hollywood), and a Safe Routes to School project at Micheltorena Elementary (Sunset Boulevard and Micheltorena Street in Silver Lake).

-I fought for the health of our youth by curbing the illegal sale of tobacco to children, in partnership with the City Attorney. The policy we created locally has been a model in other municipalities and is now the framework for new state laws.

-Continuing my push for healthier communities, I partnered with my City Council colleague Jose Huizar to craft policy banning the use of smokeless tobacco products at all baseball fields, sports venues, and Recreation and Parks facilities in the city.

-In an effort to promote healthy and active lifestyles, I have hosted more than 100 elementary school students from five schools during my annual Fitness Challenge, held in Silver Lake for the last three years.

-I worked to provide free summer lunches at our city parks and recreation facilities, as well as our libraries, for the third consecutive year.

-I pushed for improvements in public safety by establishing the CD13 Clean Team, a group of volunteers who beautify and maintain the 13th District by eliminating trash, debris, and graffiti.

My staff and I will work hard to connect schools in 13th District with the city resources that are available, and we look forward to fostering even better relationships with the local schools in the years ahead. If you have any questions, please contact my Education Deputy Star Parsamyan at 213-473-7013 or star.parsamyan@lacity.org.

Warm regards,

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Mitch O'Farrell
